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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, CHAU T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2176

DATE MAILED: 06/16/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Amendment, received on 03/28/2006, has been entered. Claims 3-5, 7, 11-12, 22-23, 27 and 29-55 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 3-5, 7, 12, 22-23, 29-33, 35-36, 38-42, 44-45, 47-55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Conrad et al. (Conrad), US Patent No. 6,307,545, and further in view of Takeda et al. (Takeda), US Patent No. 6,549,302.

4. As to claims 32 and 41, Conrad discloses a document handling apparatus for editing document file data, comprising:

a display which displays in a list window area a plurality of document icons/thumbnails corresponding to registered document files each including a plurality of pages, and which displays in a palette window area page icons/thumbnails

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corresponding to the plurality of pages of at least one selected registered document file corresponding to at least one selected icon/thumbnail in the list window area (col. 1, lines 32-57 and col. 4, lines 5-28: a display system 18 displaying a plurality of windows enclosed identifiers or icons (thumbnails) such as icons 26 and 27 in window 23, icons 28-30 in window 24 and icon 31 in window 25, and icons are shown as graphical elements and icons may also be textual elements (document files), such as the name of the corresponding object (page), and col. 11, lines 5-41, col. 12, lines 15-47 and Figs. 14A-B and 15A-B: a window (palette window) for an opened enclosure includes identifiers (document files) within the window corresponding to objects (pages) enclosed by the opened enclosure); and

a file controller which picks up desired pages of the plurality of pages of the at least one selected registered document file based on a designation of page icons/thumbnails in the palette window area corresponding to the desired pages, while the registered document files are maintained (col. 1, lines 32-57, col. 4, lines 5-28, col. 11, lines 5-41, col. 12, lines 15-47 and Figs. 14A-B and 15A-B: The memory stores a plurality of objects including enclosures (folders/icons/thumbnails) where the enclosures comprises objects (pages) and a window for an opened enclosure includes identifiers within the window corresponding to objects enclosed by the opened enclosure)

However, Conrad does not explicitly disclose a file controller which unifies the picked up individual pages to generate a new document file and a corresponding new document file icon/thumbnail based on the picked up individual pages. Takeda discloses a method that enables a user to divide (division process) one document into

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plural pages or combine (unification process) several documents into one (col. 14, line 18 – col. 15, line 53). Takeda also discloses that document can be divided at specified page such that Document 1 includes 3 pages, each page is considered as an individual page (col. 6, lines 55-67 and Fig. 6). In addition, Takeda discloses that using combination instruction and division instruction (file controller) from the menu on display screen to combine document and divide document, respectively (col. 14, lines 18-67). Also, Takeda discloses that the data storage section include operation management table, document management table and page management table as seen in Fig. 3, and these table stores the read-out manuscript images and various data item (col. 3, line 49 – col. 4, line 28), and while maintaining the order of manuscripts in documents or page even after the documents have been divided or combined. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Takeda and Conrad to include a file controller which unifies the picked up individual pages to generate a new document file and a corresponding new document file icon/thumbnail based on the picked up individual pages. Takeda provides an image processing system, which can read manuscripts/documents and carry out image processing on the basis of the management information corresponding to the images of the read documents.

5. As to claim 3, Conrad-Takeda disclose wherein said each registered document file corresponds to file data stored in a memory (Conrad, col. 3, line 57 – col. 4, line 25 and col. 12, lines 15-47).

6. As to claims 4 and 22, Conrad-Takeda disclose wherein said file controller exports the new document file icon from the palette window area into the list window area (Conrad, col. 6, lines 10-31).

7. As to claims 5 and 23, Conrad-Takeda disclose wherein the new document file is outputted by an operation of the new document file icon/thumbnail in the palette window (Conrad, Abstract, col. 1, lines 32-57, col. 4, lines 5-28, col. 11, lines 5-41, col. 12, lines 15-47 and Figs. 14A-B and 15A-B).

8. As to claims 7 and 29, Conrad-Takeda disclose wherein said file controller creates a duplicated file of the at least one selected registered document (Takeda discloses a method that enables a user to divide (division process) one document into plural documents or combine (unification process) several documents into one (col. 14, line 18 – col. 15, line 53. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Takeda and Conrad to include file operation means for executing a page division process or a page unification process of document file on the basis of an operation for the icon/thumbnails shown on said palette window area. Takeda provides an image processing system which can read manuscripts/documents and carry out image processing on the basis of the management information corresponding to the images of the read documents).

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9. As to claim 30, Conrad-Takeda disclose displaying page icon/thumbnails corresponding to each divided page in the palette window area (Conrad, col. 11, lines 5-41, col. 12, lines 15-47 and Figs. 14A-B and 15A-B: a window (palette window) for an opened enclosure includes identifiers (document files) within the window corresponding to objects (pages) enclosed by the opened enclosure).

10. As to claims 33 and 42, Conrad-Takeda disclose wherein the new document file has a predetermined file format (Conrad, col. 4, lines 21-18).

11. As to claims 35 and 44, Conrad-Takeda disclose wherein said each registered document file includes icon/thumbnail data and a document file having a predetermined file format and including the plurality of pages of the registered document file (Conrad, Abstract, col. 1, lines 32-57, col. 4, lines 5-28, col. 11, lines 5-41, col. 12, lines 15-47 and Figs. 14A-B and 15A-B).

12. As to claims 12, 31, 36 and 45, Conrad-Takeda disclose wherein the new document file has the predetermined file format, and the new document file is generated based on the document file having the predetermined file format (Conrad, Abstract, col. 1, lines 32-57, col. 4, lines 5-28, col. 11, lines 5-41, col. 12, lines 15-47 and Figs. 14A-B and 15A-B).

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13. As to claims 38 and 47, Conrad-Takeda disclose wherein the picked up pages are picked up from one said selected registered document file (Conrad, Abstract, col. 1, lines 32-57, col. 4, lines 5-28, col. 11, lines 5-41, col. 12, lines 15-47 and Figs. 14A-B and 15A-B).

14. As to claims 39 and 48, Conrad-Takeda disclose wherein one of the picked up pages is picked up from one said selected registered document file, and another of the picked up pages is picked up from another said selected registered document file (Conrad, Abstract, col. 1, lines 32-57, col. 4, lines 5-28, col. 11, lines 5-41, col. 12, lines 15-47 and Figs. 14A-B and 15A-B).

15. As to claims 40, 49, 51 and 53, Conrad-Takeda disclose wherein the file controller generates the new document file in accordance with an operation of moving the new document file icon/thumbnaill from the palette window area to the list window area (Conrad, Abstract, col. 1, lines 32-57 and col. 4, lines 5-28: a display system 18 displaying a plurality of windows enclosed identifiers or icons (thumbnails) such as icons 26 and 27 in window 23, icons 28-30 in window 24 and icon 31 in window 25, and icons are shown as graphical elements and icons may also be textual elements (document files), such as the name of the corresponding object (page), and col. 11, lines 5-41, col. 12, lines 15-47 and Figs. 14A-B and 15A-B: a window (palette window) for an opened enclosure includes identifiers (document files) within the window corresponding to objects (pages) enclosed by the opened enclosure).

16. As to claims 54 and 55, Conrad-Takeda disclose wherein the file controller generates the new document file based on the picked up pages (Conrad, Abstract, col. 1, lines 32-57, col. 4, lines 5-28, col. 11, lines 5-41, col. 12, lines 15-47 and Figs. 14A-B and 15A-B).

17. As to claims 50 and 52, Conrad discloses a document handling apparatus for editing document file data, comprising:

a display which displays a list window area and a palette window area (col. 1, lines 32-57 and col. 4, lines 5-28: a display system 18 displaying a plurality of windows enclosed identifiers or icons (thumbnails) such as icons 26 and 27 in window 23, icons 28-30 in window 24 and icon 31 in window 25, and icons are shown as graphical elements and icons may also be textual elements (document files), such as the name of the corresponding object (page), and col. 11, lines 5-41, col. 12, lines 15-47 and Figs. 14A-B and 15A-B: a window (palette window) for an opened enclosure includes identifiers (document files) within the window corresponding to objects (pages) enclosed by the opened enclosure); and

a file controller which (i) registers at least one stored document file and causes page icons/thumbnails corresponding to a plurality of pages of the registered document file to be displayed in the list window area, while the registered document files are maintained (col. 1, lines 32-57, col. 4, lines 5-28, col. 11, lines 5-41, col. 12, lines 15-47 and Figs. 14A-B and 15A-B: The memory stores a plurality of objects

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including enclosures (folders/icons/thumbnails) where the enclosures comprises objects (pages) and a window for an opened enclosure includes identifiers within the window corresponding to objects enclosed by the opened enclosure; and col. 7, lines 47-65: each identifier within window is maintained in a list 111, the location in memory of the object represented by the identifier; The memory stores a plurality of objects including enclosures (folders/icons/thumbnails) where the enclosures comprises objects (pages) and a window for an opened enclosure includes identifiers within the window corresponding to objects enclosed by the opened enclosure),

(iii) displays in the palette window area the page icons/thumbnails (col. 1, lines 32-57 and col. 4, lines 5-28),

(iv) performs an editing operation by manipulating the page icons/thumbnails displayed in the palette window area, said editing operation including picking up desired individual pages of the plurality of the pages of the at least one registered document file based on a designation of page icons/thumbnails in the palette window area corresponding to the desired individual pages (Abstract, col. 1, lines 32-57, col. 4, lines 5-28, col. 11, lines 5-41, col. 12, lines 15-47 and Figs. 14A-B and 15A-B: Conrad et al disclose that a graphical user interface allows user to drag an object (document file) when the user rolls over a hot spot on top of an icon or text representing a closed enclosure, and windows on the display corresponding to opened enclosures, wherein a window for an opened enclosure includes identifiers (icons/thumbnails) within the window corresponding to object enclosed by the opened enclosure),

However, Conrad does not explicitly disclose (ii) creates a document file having a predetermined file format corresponding to the registered document file in accordance with the registration and unifying the picked up individual pages, and (v) generates a new document file having the predetermined file format, and a corresponding new document file icon/thumbnail, in accordance with the editing operation. Takeda discloses in Figure 3 and pages 9-44 that documents are stored or registered in the data storage section 23 that stores documents, pages, file name type, number of documents or pages. Takeda discloses a method that enables a user to divide (division process) one document into plural pages or combine (unification process) several documents into one (col. 14, line 18 – col. 15, line 53). Takeda also discloses that document can be divided at specified page such that Document 1 includes 3 pages, each page is considered as an individual page (col. 6, lines 55-67 and Fig. 6). In addition, Takeda discloses that using combination instruction and division instruction (file controller) from the menu on display screen to combine document and divide document, respectively (col. 14, lines 18-67). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Takeda and Conrad to include a document file having a predetermined file format corresponding to the registered document file in accordance with the registration and unifying the picked up individual pages, and (v) generates a new document file having the predetermined file format, and a corresponding new document file icon/thumbnail, in accordance with the editing operation. Takeda provides an image processing system,

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which can read manuscripts/documents and carry out image processing on the basis of the management information corresponding to the images of the read documents.

18. Claims 11, 27, 34, 37, 43, and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Conrad et al. (Conrad), US Patent No. 6,307,545 and Takeda et al. (Takeda), US Patent No. 6,549,302 as discussed in claims 3-5, 7, 12, 22-23, 29-33, 35-36, 38-42, 44-45, 47-55 above, and further in view of Stumbo et al. (Stumbo), US Patent No. 6,084,688.

19. As to claims 11, 27, 34, 37, 43 and 46, Conrad-Takeda disclose wherein the new document file has a predetermined file format (Conrad, col. 4, lines 21-18) and Takeda discloses converting a scan document into an image document (col. 8, line 14 – col. 9, line 43). However, Conrad-Takeda do not explicitly disclose wherein said predetermined format is PDF format. Stumbo discloses converting an image into a portable document format or PDF (Stumbo, col. 1, lines 44-65). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Stumbo and Conrad-Takeda to include converting a document file into a PDF since the advantage of the portable document format is that it is page-independent and multi-page document converted into a PDF can be divided into subsets of data, and each subset of data corresponding to one of the multiple page images in the job or document. By doing this way, a number of individual page images

in a multi-page document can be decomposed in parallel, thus reducing the amount of time required to decompose an entire multi-page document.

Response to Arguments

In the remarks, Applicant(s) argued in substance that

A) Conrad, Takeda and/or Stumbo do not teach “pick up desired individual pages of the plurality of pages of the at least one selected registered document file based on a designation of page icons/thumbnails in the palette window area corresponding to the desired individual pages, and which unifies the pickup individual pages to generate a new document file and a corresponding new document file icon/thumbnail based on the picked up individual pages, while the registered document files are maintained.”

In reply to argument A, Conrad discloses in col. 1, lines 32-57, col. 4, lines 5-28, col. 11, lines 5-41, col. 12, lines 15-47 and Figs. 14A-B and 15A-B: The memory stores a plurality of objects including enclosures (folders/icons/thumbnails) where the enclosures comprises objects (pages) and a window for an opened enclosure includes identifiers within the window corresponding to objects enclosed by the opened enclosure, and even when the enclosure is opened, the number of objects inside of the enclosure is still maintained the same)

However, Conrad does not explicitly disclose a file controller which unifies the picked up individual pages to generate a new document file and a corresponding new document file icon/thumbnail based on the picked up individual pages. Takeda

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discloses a method that enables a user to divide (division process) one document into plural pages or combine (unification process) several documents into one (col. 14, line 18 – col. 15, line 53). Takeda also discloses that document can be divided at specified page such that Document 1 includes 3 pages, each page is considered as an individual page (col. 6, lines 55-67 and Fig. 6). In addition, Takeda discloses that using combination instruction and division instruction (file controller) from the menu on display screen to combine document and divide document, respectively (col. 14, lines 18-67). Also, Takeda discloses that the data storage section include operation management table, document management table and page management table as seen in Fig. 3, and these table stores the read-out manuscript images and various data item (col. 3, line 49 – col. 4, line 28), and while maintaining the order of manuscripts in documents or page even after the documents have been divided or combined. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Takeda and Conrad to include a file controller which unifies the picked up individual pages to generate a new document file and a corresponding new document file icon/thumbnail based on the picked up individual pages. Takeda provides an image processing system, which can read manuscripts/documents and carry out image processing on the basis of the management information corresponding to the images of the read documents.

20. Applicant's arguments filed 03/28/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Please see the rejection and the response to arguments above.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chau Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-4092. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am – 5:30 pm Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon, can be reached on (571) 272-4136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306. On July 15, 2005, the Central Facsimile (FAX) Number will change from 703-872-9306 to 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Art Unit 2176

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